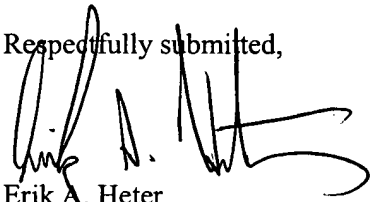


1. This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:
 - a. ☐ within 3 months of the filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under § 1.53(d);
☐ within 3 months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in § 1.491 in an International application;
☒ before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits; or
☐ before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under § 1.114.
 - b. ☐ after the events of above paragraph 1a and prior to the mailing date of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance, and thus: ☐ the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, or ☐ a fee of \$180.00 is enclosed.
 - c. ☐ after the mailing date of a final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance and prior to payment of the issue fee, and thus: the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided and a fee of \$180.00 is enclosed.
2. It is hereby certified:
 - ☐ that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and that this communication was not received by any individual designated in § 1.56(c) more than thirty (30) days prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement;
 - ☐ that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three (3) months prior to the filing of the Statement; or
 - ☐ that no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in § 1.56 (c) more than three (3) months prior to the filing of the Statement.
3. ☐ Consideration of the following additional information (including any co-pending or abandoned U.S. applications, prior uses and/or sales, etc.) is requested:
4. For each non-English language reference listed on the attached Form PTO-1449:
 - ☐ reference is made to an English language translation submitted herewith, and/or
 - ☐ reference is made to a foreign patent office search report (in the English language) submitted herewith, and/or
 - ☐ reference is made to an English language translation of a foreign patent office search report submitted herewith, and/or

- ☐ reference is made to the concise explanation contained in the specification of the present application at page(s) _____, and/or
- ☐ reference is made to the concise explanation set forth below:
5. ☐ Applicant also offers the following comments for the Examiner's consideration:
6. ☐ Also enclosed is a copy of a foreign search report citing these references.
7. ☐ The listed documents were brought to the attention of the Applicant(s) after payment of the issue fee in the captioned case. The documents were cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. Applicant(s) request this Information Disclosure Statement and attached Form PTO-1449 be placed in the file of the captioned application.
8. ☐ Applicant(s) requests that the Information Disclosure Statement and attached Form PTO-1449 and references, which are being filed before the grant of the patent and pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(i), be placed in the file of the captioned application.

If any required fees are missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzl, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505/5681-64400/EAH.

Respectfully submitted,


Erik A. Heter
Reg. No. 50,652
Agent for Applicant(s)

MEYERTONS, HOOD, KIVLIN,
KOWERT & GOETZEL, P.C.
P. O. Box 398
Austin, Texas 78767
(512) 853-8800

Date: December 9, 2004

Form PTO-1449 (modified)

List of Patents and Publications
For Applicant's Information
Disclosure Statement
(Use several sheets if necessary)

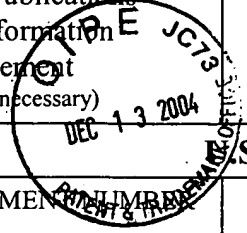
ATTY. DKT. NO. 5681-64400

APPLICANT: Rarick, et al.

FILING DATE: July 11, 2003

SERIAL NO. 10/617,632

GROUP: 3629

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

EXAM. INITIALS	REF. DES.	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB CLASS	FILING DATE APPROPRIAT
		6,683,954	01/27/2004	Searle			
		6,618,806	09/09/2003	Brown, et al.			
		6,549,622	04/15/2003	Matthews, Jr.			
		6,389,535	05/14/2002	Thomlinson, et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAM. INITIALS	REF. DES.	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB CLASS	TRANSLATIO YES/NO

OTHER ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

EXAMINER:

DATE CONSIDERED:

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to the patent owner.